Proctor

Proctor

We will slide together into our pit...

He uses Mary's deposition and the testimonies of the villagers before making his own confession.

Proctor has a sense of justice.

We vote by name in this society, not by acreage. To Putnam. Act One.

Power

He has an acute sense of guilt and shame because he committed the sin of adultery

I have good reason to think before I charge fraud on Abigail.

Unable to repeat the command about adultery when Hale asks him to.

"The promise a stallion gives a mare I gave that girl." Proctor says that to go back to Abigail and tell her this "speaks deceit and I am honest".

He is prepared to speak out and question authority...but he can only go so far without becoming a hypocrite.

Taunts Parris by saying he "must join" the rumoured faction that is set up against the minister.

I see no light of God in that man. Challenging the authority of Parris.

Proctor's sense of justice prevails when he decides to oppose the court, even though Elizabeth might be pardoned because she is pregnant. It is because his friends' wives also stand accused.

Like Parris, Proctor has lied / withheld the truth in order to protect his reputation. The difference is that Proctor is genuinely sorry for what he has done. He feels real guilt. He struggles and strives with his conscience, every step of the way.

Proctor is more rational than most others and he feels that he needs to make others to see the truth.

I have wondered if there be witches in the world - although I cannot believe that they come amongst us now. To Hale.

How may such a woman murder children?

His feelings of guilt still hold him back, right up until the final scene.

I wish you had some evil in you that you might know me!

I set myself entirely in your hands. i know you must see it now...We will burn together! (To Danforth)

Let Rebecca go like a saint; for me it is fraud! (Proctor Act 4)

He refuses to sign the confession and refuses to accuse others of witchcraft -
Because it is my name! Because I cannot have another in my life! Because I lie and sign myself to lies! Because I am not worth the dust on the feet of them that hang! How may I live without my name? I have given you my soul; leave me my name!